

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

January 4, 2005

IN RE:

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO
THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND
TCG MIDSOUTH, INC.**

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**DOCKET NO.
04-00343**

**ORDER APPROVING
FIFTH AMENDMENT TO THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

This matter came before Chairman Pat Miller, Director Deborah Taylor Tate and Director Sara Kyle of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority" or "TRA"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on December 13, 2004, to consider, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Petition for approval of the fifth amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and TCG MidSouth, Inc.

The original interconnection agreement between these parties was filed on May 22, 2002, in Docket No. 00-00079. It was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on August 19, 2002. The first set of amendments was filed on February 4, 2003, under Docket No. 03-00090 and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on April 24, 2003. The second amendment was filed on November 7, 2003, under Docket No. 03-00593 and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on December 15, 2003. The third amendment was filed on May 17, 2004, under Docket No. 04-00147 and was approved at a

regularly scheduled Authority Conference on July 26, 2004. The fourth amendment was filed on August 11, 2004, under Docket No. 04-00246 and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on September 27, 2004. The fifth amendment, which is the subject of this docket, was filed on October 12, 2004.

Based upon a review of the amendment, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously granted the Petition and made the following findings and conclusions:

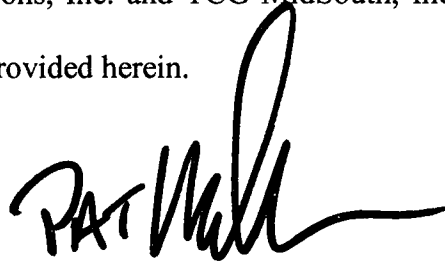
- 1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 (2004).
- 2) The amendment is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. service area.
- 3) The amendment is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.
- 4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 or 252(d).¹ Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this finding should not be construed to mean that the amendment is consistent with §§ 251 or 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B)

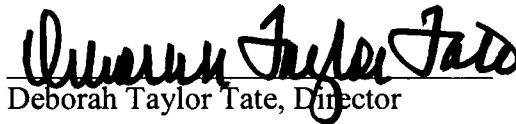
- 5) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.
- 6) The amendment is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104 (2004).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Petition is granted, and the fifth amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and TCG MidSouth, Inc. is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.



Pat Miller, Chairman



Deborah Taylor Tate, Director



Sara Kyle, Director